

### **Amendments to the Claims**

Please amend Claim 86. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

### **Listing of Claims**

1 – 85. (Canceled)

86. (Currently amended) A method for detecting the presence of specific antibodies ~~the identification of antibodies~~ in experimental or clinical ~~diagnostic~~ samples, comprising:
- a) providing a ubiquitin fusion protein ~~of selected from the group consisting of ubiquitin fusion proteins described in Claims 1, 20, 41 and 58~~ i) a ubiquitin fusion protein comprising ubiquitin fused to a single epitope-containing segment, the epitope-containing segment comprising two or more identical epitopes, ii) a ubiquitin fusion protein comprising ubiquitin fused to two or more non-contiguous epitope-containing segments, each epitope-containing segment comprising one or more identical or non-identical epitopes, iii) a ubiquitin fusion protein comprising ubiquitin fused to a single epitope-containing segment comprising two or more identical or non-identical epitopes, the epitope-containing segments being fused to the ubiquitin at fusion sites selected from the groups consisting of the N-terminus and an internal fusion site and, iv) a ubiquitin fusion protein comprising ubiquitin fused to a single epitope-containing segment comprising one or more identical or non-identical epitopes, the epitope-containing segment being fused to ubiquitin at the N-terminus of the heat shock protein, wherein one or more epitopes are recognized by the antibody to be detected;
  - b) providing a sample suspected of comprising antibodies reactive with one or more epitopes of the ubiquitin fusion protein, said sample acquired from an experimental or clinical source;
  - c) forming an incubation mixture comprising the ubiquitin fusion protein of step a) and the antibodies sample of step b); and
  - d) ~~detecting binding of the antibodies in the sample of step b) that bind to the epitope or epitopes of the~~ ubiquitin fusion protein of step a).

87 – 100. (Canceled)